



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

December 13, 2021

Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission  
P.O. Box 56447  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

RE: Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale as a Community of Interest within Supervisorial District 5

Dear Commissioners:

This is a follow up to my letter of October 6, 2021, sent again to emphasize the importance of this issue to the City of Pasadena. Specifically, as the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission considers boundaries for the County's five supervisorial districts following the recent release of federal census data, the City of Pasadena would like to strongly advocate for the classification of the tri-city area of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale as a Community of Interest ("COI") and its continued inclusion within Supervisorial District 5. Per Section 2(d)(4) of Article XXI of the California Constitution, a COI is a contiguous population sharing common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.

Given its historic ties, demographic and economic similarities, shared legislative and municipal objectives, and joint coordination on regional safety and public service programs, the tri-city area of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale should be considered a COI and maintained within the same supervisorial district. This position was approved by the City Council at its meeting of October 4, 2021.

History

Characterized as older suburbs, Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale share a similar history as former Ranchos that saw the development of townsites in the 1880s. Located on former land grants from the Spanish and Mexican governments in the early to mid-1800s, Glendale and the eastern part of Burbank occupy what was formerly Rancho San Rafael, while west Burbank was

once part of Rancho La Providencia. Pasadena sits on land that was formerly managed by the San Gabriel Mission and later became Rancho el Rincon de San Pascual.

Coinciding with a land boom in the 1880s and the growth of manufacturing and tourism in the region, the cities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale experienced extensive population growth and incorporated in 1886, 1911 and 1906, respectively. The 1920's and 1930's saw increased housing development and commercial activity in the tri-city area as well as the establishment of economic, cultural, and civic institutions, including the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena, Walt Disney studios in Burbank, and the Grand Central Air Terminal in Glendale. All three cities enjoyed an industrial boom in the 1940s and continue to promote economic vitality for their business community through joint economic development initiatives.

As charter cities with a Council-Manager form of government, Pasadena, Burbank, Glendale have local decision-making authority over municipal affairs and have similar objectives to address the needs of their residents and business communities. As full-service cities, they provide their own safety and utility services, contain independent school districts, and advocate for similar municipal priorities.

The cities further share common neighborhood aesthetics, from tree-lined neighborhoods, and the preservation of open space – Glendale has 50 public parks, Burbank has 41 parks and facilities, and Pasadena has 24 parks. Beautiful, thriving neighborhoods are central aspects to the quality of life the tri-cities provide for their communities.

#### Demographics and Economic Background

The tri-cities further share similar demographics and economic metrics, including population size, concentration of population per square mile, median age, and median housing values are comparable between the three cities. Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale also share diverse residential populations.

#### Joint Ventures

Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale work in concert on several joint ventures to provide transportation, business, and safety services to the region. As a COI, the tri-cities region is closely connected by economic development initiatives. Historically, with their proximity to Los Angeles and population increases associated with the growth of manufacturing industries, the tri-cities boast a diverse economic base, from entertainment to professional services to businesses that serve the aviation and technological sectors. The region is home to thousands of entertainment and media companies and tens of thousands of tech and creative industry jobs.



The tri-cities also participate in the larger Arroyo Verdugo Communities Subregion Joint Powers Authority (“JPA”), which also includes La Canada Flintridge, South Pasadena, and the unincorporated communities of Montrose/La Crescenta. Formed in 2018, the JPA oversees the subregion's five-year transportation program and expenditure of Metro Measure M funds toward the region's transit needs. Connected by Interstate 5 and State Highway 134, the tri-cities have consistently coordinated on regional transportation initiatives.

Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale are working jointly to complete a transit fleet electrification study for their local routes to respond to state-mandated regulations that promote zero-emission transit vehicles. The study is currently underway and represents a regional effort to mutually-address state transportation and environmental goals. Additionally, the three cities each appoint members to the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority, a separate government agency created under a joint powers agreement in 1977 to oversee operations at the Hollywood Burbank Airport.

In the area of public safety, Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena coordinate on regional fire and police efforts, including the Police Air Support Unit. Established in 1979, the Air Support Unit, located at the Hollywood Burbank Airport, operates seven days a week conducting surveillance, fire observation, search and rescue, and mosquito abatement.

The tri-cities also founded the Verdugo Fire Communications Center in 1979 to optimize use of fire service and defense resources, which also provides Emergency Medical Services and rescue dispatch services to nine other cities in the region.

Finally, all three cities own and operate publicly owned utilities and serve as members of the Southern California Public Power Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the California Municipal Utilities Association.

The cities of Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale are closely connected through historical ties, demographic and economic similarities, legislative and municipal objectives, and joint partnerships that promote safety and reliable services for their communities. Maintaining the tri-cities within County Supervisorial District 5 would allow these municipalities to continue to effectively leverage resources toward meeting local and state goals, advocate their policy stances from a regional perspective, and provide a high quality of life and economic vitality for residents and businesses.

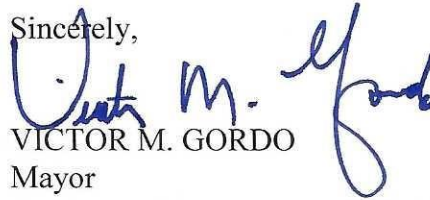
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For additional information, please contact Nicholas G. Rodriguez, Assistant City Manager at [NiRodriguez@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:NiRodriguez@cityofpasadena.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor M. Gordo". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Victor" written in a cursive-like script, followed by "M." and "Gordo".

VICTOR M. GORDO

Mayor